

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A blow molded container, comprising:

an inner layer of plastic suitable for blow molding;

an outer layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said inner layer, said

outer layer of plastic formed as a foam having foam cells containing wherein

~~the foam cells contain~~ one of carbon dioxide and nitrogen; and

a threaded portion for ~~formed at an end of~~ the container adapted to receive a

cooperating closure, wherein said threaded portion is formed from at least one

of:

a) said outer layer formed as a foam; and

b) both said outer layer formed as a foam and said inner layer.

2. (Previously Presented) The blow molded container according to Claim 1, wherein said inner layer of plastic comprises a plastic selected from the group consisting of polyesters, acrylonitrile acid esters, vinyl chlorides, polyolefins, polyamides, and derivatives, blends, and copolymers thereof.

3. (Previously Presented) The blow molded container according to Claim 1, wherein said inner layer of plastic comprises a polyester.

4. (Previously Presented) The blow molded container according to Claim 1, wherein said inner layer of plastic comprises polyethylene terephthalate.

5. (Previously Presented) The blow molded container according to Claim 1, wherein said outer layer of plastic comprises a plastic selected from the group consisting of polyesters, acrylonitrile acid esters, vinyl chlorides, polyolefins, polyamides, and derivatives, blends, and copolymers thereof.

6. (Previously Presented) The blow molded container according to Claim 1, wherein said outer layer of plastic comprises a polyester.

7. (Previously Presented) The blow molded container according to Claim 1, wherein said outer layer of plastic comprises polyethylene terephthalate.

8. (Previously Presented) The blow molded container according to Claim 1, wherein said outer layer of plastic and said inner layer of plastic are the same.

9. (Previously Presented) The blow molded container according to Claim 1, wherein said outer layer of plastic and said inner layer of plastic are different.

10. (Previously Presented) The blow molded container according to Claim 1, wherein the foam cells contain a gas comprising a gas selected from the group consisting of carbon dioxide, nitrogen, argon, air, and blends and derivatives thereof.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) A multilayer preform for forming a blow molded container, comprising:

an inner layer of plastic suitable for blow molding;

an outer layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said inner layer,
said outer layer of plastic formed as a foam having foam cells
containing ~~wherein the foam cells contain~~ one of carbon dioxide and
nitrogen; and

a threaded portion ~~for formed at an end of~~ the preform adapted to receive a
cooperating closure, wherein said threaded portion is formed from at
least one of:

a) said outer layer formed as a foam; and

b) both said outer layer formed as a foam and said inner layer.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) A reheat stretch blow molded container, comprising:

an inner of plastic suitable for blow molding;

an outer layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said inner layer, said
outer layer of plastic formed as a foam having foam cells containing ~~wherein~~
~~the foam cells contain~~ one of carbon dioxide and nitrogen; and

a threaded portion ~~for formed at an end of~~ the container adapted to receive a
cooperating closure, wherein said threaded portion is formed from at least one
of:

a) said outer layer formed as a foam; and

b) both said outer layer formed as a foam and said inner layer.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently Amended) A multilayer preform for forming a blow molded container, comprising:

an inner layer of plastic;

an outer layer of foamed plastic contacting said inner layer, said inner layer and said

outer layer formed by injection of a gas in a supercritical state into a single

melt of plastic to produce a multi-layered preform for blow molding, wherein

foam cells formed in said outer layer contain the gas; and

a threaded portion for ~~formed at an end of~~ the preform adapted to receive a

cooperating closure, wherein said threaded portion is formed from at least one

of:

a) said outer layer formed as a foam; and

b) both said outer layer formed as a foam and said inner layer.

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Previously Presented) The preform of Claim 38, wherein said inner layer and said outer layer comprise a plastic selected from the group consisting of polyesters, acrylonitrile acid esters, vinyl chlorides, polyolefins, polyamides, and derivatives, blends, and copolymers thereof.

41. (Previously Presented) The preform of Claim 38, wherein said inner layer and said outer layer comprise polyethylene terephthalate.

42. (Previously Presented) The preform of Claim 38, wherein the supercritical gas comprises a gas selected from the group consisting of carbon dioxide, nitrogen, argon, air, and blends and derivatives thereof.

43. (Previously Presented) The preform of Claim 38, further comprising a third layer of plastic contacting said inner layer of plastic, said third layer of plastic formed as a non-foamed layer.

44. (Previously Presented) The preform of Claim 38, wherein said inner layer and said outer layer are formed by a single melt of plastic.

45. (Previously Presented) The blow molded container of Claim 1, wherein the container is blow molded from a multi-layered preform formed in a multi-step injection molding process.

46. (Previously Presented) The blow molded container of Claim 1, wherein the container is blow molded from a multi-layered preform formed by a coextrusion process.

47. (Previously Presented) The preform of Claim 22, wherein the preform is formed in a multi-step injection molding process.

48. (Previously Presented) The preform of Claim 22, wherein the preform is formed by a coextrusion process.

49. (Cancelled)

50. (Cancelled)

51. (Cancelled)

52. (Currently Amended) A multilayer preform for forming a blow molded container, comprising:

- a first layer plastic suitable for blow molding;
- a second layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said first layer, said second layer of plastic formed as a foam having foam cells containing wherein
~~the foam cells contain~~ one of carbon dioxide and nitrogen;
- a third layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said second layer;
- a fourth layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting one of said first layer and said third layer; and
- a threaded portion ~~for formed at an end of~~ the preform adapted to receive a cooperating closure, wherein said threaded portion is formed from ~~at least one~~ of:

- a) said second ~~outer~~ layer formed as a foam; and
- b) a combination of said second layer formed as a foam and at least one of said first layer, said third layer, and said fourth .

53. (Previously Presented) The preform of Claim 52, wherein said fourth layer of plastic is formed as a foam wherein the foam cells contain one of carbon dioxide and nitrogen.

54. (Previously Presented) The preform of Claim 52, further including a fifth layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said fourth layer.

55. (Currently Amended) A blow molded container, comprising:

a first layer of plastic suitable for blow molding;

a second layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said first layer;

a third layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said second layer;

a fourth layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said third layer;

a fifth layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said fourth

layer, wherein at least one of the first layer, the second layer, the third layer,

the fourth layer, and the fifth layer is formed as a foam having foam cells

containing ~~wherein the foam cells contain~~ one of carbon dioxide and nitrogen;

and

a threaded portion for ~~formed at an end of~~ the container adapted to receive a

cooperating closure, wherein said threaded portion is formed from one of:

a) said fifth layer formed as a foam; and

b) a combination of at least one of said fourth layer and said fifth layer
formed as a foam and at least one of said first layer, said second layer,
and said third layer at least a layer formed as a foam..

56. (Currently Amended) A blow molded container, comprising:

~~an~~ a first outer layer of plastic suitable for blow molding, said outer layer of plastic formed as a foam having foam cells containing ~~wherein the foam cells contain~~ one of carbon dioxide and nitrogen;

a second layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said outer layer;

a third layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said second layer, said third layer of plastic formed as a foam having foam cells containing ~~wherein the foam cells contain~~ one of carbon dioxide and nitrogen;

a fourth layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said third layer;

~~an~~ a fifth inner layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said fourth layer, said inner layer of plastic formed as a foam having foam cells containing ~~wherein the foam cells contain~~ one of carbon dioxide and nitrogen; and

a threaded portion ~~for formed at an end~~ of the container adapted to receive a cooperating closure, wherein said threaded portion is formed from at least one of:

- a) said first outer layer formed as a foam;
- b) said third layer formed as a foam;
- c) said fifth inner layer formed as a foam; and
- d) a combination of at least one of said first outer layer, said third layer, and said fifth layer and at least one of said first outer layer, and said second layer a layer formed as a foam..

57. (Currently Amended) A multilayer preform for forming a blow molded container, comprising:

a first of plastic suitable for blow molding;

a second layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said first layer;

a third layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said second layer;

a fourth layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said third layer;

a fifth layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said fourth

layer, wherein at least one of the first layer, the second layer, the third layer,

the fourth layer, and the fifth layer is formed as a foam having foam cells

containing ~~wherein the foam cells contain~~ one of carbon dioxide and nitrogen;

and

a threaded portion for ~~formed at an end of~~ the preform adapted to receive a

cooperating closure, wherein said threaded portion is formed from one of:

a) said fifth layer formed as a foam ;and

b) a combination of said fifth layer formed as a foam and at least one of

said first layer, said second layer, said third layer, at least a layer

formed as a foam..

58. (Currently Amended) The multilayer preform of Claim 57 ~~58~~, wherein said first layer, said second layer, said third layer, said fourth layer, and said fifth layer are formed by injection of a gas in a supercritical state into a single melt of plastic to produce a multi-layered preform suitable for blow molding.

59. (Currently Amended) A multilayer preform for forming a blow molded container, comprising:

~~an~~ a first outer layer of plastic suitable for blow molding, said outer layer of plastic formed as a foam having foam cells containing ~~wherein the foam cells contain~~ one of carbon dioxide and nitrogen;

a second layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said outer layer;

a third layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said second layer, said third layer of plastic formed as a foam having foam cells containing ~~wherein the foam cells contain~~ one of carbon dioxide and nitrogen;

a fourth layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said third layer;

a first inner layer of plastic suitable for blow molding contacting said fourth layer, said inner layer of plastic formed as a foam having foam cells containing ~~wherein the foam cells contain~~ one of carbon dioxide and nitrogen; and

a threaded portion for ~~formed at an end of~~ the preform adapted to receive a cooperating closure, wherein said threaded portion is formed from at least one of:

- a) said first outer layer formed as a foam;
- b) said third layer formed as a foam;
- c) said fifth inner layer formed as a foam; and
- d) a combination of at least one of said first outer layer, said third layer, and said fifth layer formed as a foam and at least one of said first outer layer and said second layer ~~a layer formed as a foam..~~

60. (Previously Presented) The multilayer preform of Claim 59, wherein said first layer, said second layer, said third layer, said fourth layer, and said fifth layer are formed by injection of a gas in a supercritical state into a single melt of plastic to produce a multi-layered preform suitable for blow molding.